

# ARDWICK FRIENDS

Unearth the industrial and social history of Ardwick and marvel at the Georgian splendour of Ardwick Green just a mile south of Manchester City Centre.

Living history epitomises Ardwick, an area rich in architectural features and cultural heritage. Originally a small village and bounded by the River Medlock, Ardwick can trace its origins back to 1282. By the early 19th century, Ardwick was an elegant suburb and its Georgian splendour is still on show at Ardwick Green, alongside one of Manchester's oldest churches St Thomas's Church, built in 1741.

The clock tower of neighbouring Nicholls Hospital, designed by Thomas Worthington and opened in 1881 to educate the poor, can be seen for miles around. Evidence of warehouses and factories remain from the heavy industrialisation which transformed the area towards the end of the 19th century. It was in Ardwick that James Potter, great-grandfather of Lakeland author Beatrix Potter once lived.

Other famous faces include radical politician Elen Wilkinson MP and Benjamin Nicholls, twice Mayor of Manchester. Famous acts still flock to Ardwick's legendary musical venue The Apollo, an Art Deco building built in the 1930s.

A new century has brought a new look to Ardwick thanks to regeneration linked to the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games. The hard work and commitment of ordinary Mancunians has also played a massive role in saving Gaskell House, the Pankhurst Centre and Victoria Baths in order to make sure that these impressive and important historical gems play a role in Ardwick's future.

Friends organisations play a huge role in safeguarding the future of Ardwick's amazing historical past. You too could help by becoming a Friend of one or all of these historical gems, ensuring they remain for future generations to appreciate, contact each building separately at:

To support **Victoria Baths**, fill in the membership form at [www.victoriabaths.org.uk/friends.htm](http://www.victoriabaths.org.uk/friends.htm) or contact:

Victoria Baths, Hathersage Road, Chorlton on Medlock, Manchester M13 0FE  
T:0161 224 2020  
E: [info@victoriabaths.org.uk](mailto:info@victoriabaths.org.uk)

To support **The Pankhurst Centre** contact:

The Pankhurst Centre Friends, 60 - 62 Nelson Street Chorlton on Medlock, Manchester, M13 9WP  
T:0161 273 5673  
E: [pankhurst@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:pankhurst@zetnet.co.uk)

To support **Gaskell House** contact:

Christine Lingard  
Membership Secretary, Friends of Plymouth Grove  
5 Moran Crescent, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 8JJ  
T:016256 115517  
E: [lindgardgms@aol.com](mailto:lindgardgms@aol.com)

# ARDWICK HERITAGE TRAIL

Explore Manchester's Hidden Historical Gems



## GASKELL HOUSE

84 Plymouth Grove, Manchester, M13 9LW

Take a literary tour around one of Manchester's few remaining Regency-style villas where iconic Victorian novelist Elizabeth Gaskell once lived.



Literary history surrounds The Gaskell House, the home of celebrated novelist Elizabeth Gaskell from 1850 to 1865. The Grade II\* listed villa, currently painted in distinctive pink, has important literary connections. Not only was it where Mrs Gaskell lived while writing such classics as 'Cranford' and 'North and South', but other acclaimed writers such as Charles Dickens and Charlotte Bronte visited the Plymouth Grove property.

The house still retains many of its original features and boasts beautiful reception rooms. Money is being raised for restoration work, which will make the house more freely available to the community, and encourage both the study of Elizabeth Gaskell's works and of Victorian Manchester.



Until restoration starts there are Open Days on the first Sunday in every month (apart from January and February) from 12.00 till 4.00, and visits by arrangement on other days. Refreshments are available and there is a bookshop.

For more information and opening times contact:  
Janet Allen on 01663 744 233  
[janet@janetbookfsnet.co.uk](mailto:janet@janetbookfsnet.co.uk)  
[www.elizabethgaskellhouse.org](http://www.elizabethgaskellhouse.org)

## VICTORIA BATHS

Hathersage Road, Manchester, M13 0FE

Discover the legacy of Victoria Baths, a magnificent Edwardian building. Restoration Phase 1 has transformed the front of the building including many of the beautiful stained glass windows.



Manchester's Victoria Baths was opened in 1906 and remains a remarkably intact example of Edwardian architecture.

Filled with lavish tiling and mosaic floors, the building originally housed three differently classed swimming pools, a Turkish Bath and intricate stained glass windows, including the stunning Angel of Purity. It attracted many Mancunians as well as famous faces including singer Louis Armstrong and Olympic medallist Duncan Goodhew MBE. After 88 years of people swimming, socialising and scrubbing themselves clean, the pool closed its doors in 1993. Ten years later, it was given a new lease of life and £3.5million when it won the BBC's Restoration series.



Work to fully restore the baths began in 2007 in a bid to ensure future generations enjoy this historical and architectural jewel.

For more information and opening times:  
0161 224 2020 [info@victoriabaths.org.uk](mailto:info@victoriabaths.org.uk)  
[www.victoriabaths.org.uk](http://www.victoriabaths.org.uk)

## PANKHURST CENTRE

60-62 Nelson Street, Manchester, M13 9WP

Visit the home of the most famous women's rights activist, Emmeline Pankhurst and learn about the Manchester-born Suffragette movement.



Experience the living history of the Pankhurst Centre, former home to the founder of the women's suffrage movement, Emmeline Pankhurst.

Born in 1858, Emmeline lived at 62 Nelson Street between 1898 and 1908 with her family. It was at this historic venue that the first meeting of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) was held in the parlour and the Suffragette movement was born.

Now a women's community centre, the site commemorates the Pankhurst family and the campaign for votes for women.



Visitors can step into the past and experience a recreated Edwardian parlour in the centre's heritage area. Original footage of the Suffragettes in action is on show and an exhibition area tells the story of the fight for female votes.

For more information and opening times:  
0161 273 5673  
[pankhurst@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:pankhurst@zetnet.co.uk)